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January 7, 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re\ Application of: Harry F. Gladfelter, Paul J. Matte, Patrick M. Pendergast & Dawn D. Ross

Appln. No.: 10/651,198

Filed: August 28, 2003

Group Art Unit: 2831

SLEEVE ASSEMBLY FOR RECEIVING

ELONGATED ITEMS WITHIN A DUCT

(Atty. Docket No. 18333 USA)

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 7, 2004.

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO 37 CFR §1.97(b)

Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants hereby request that the listed information items be considered as part of the examination of the application. A list on Form PTO-1449 is attached hereto. Copies of information items AL-AP, AR-AT, BL-BN and BR are enclosed.

With respect to Information Items AS and AT, respectively entitled "Douglas Material Specification Qualified Product List, DMS QPL 2379" and "Douglas Material Specification, DMS 2379 A", the Examiner's attention is drawn in both items to Section 3, which establishes that a sleeve of braided monofilaments and having a pull cord running the length of the sleeve was provided at least as of the date of the items, being 1996, and more than one year before the filing of the application for which this IDS is submitted.

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(3)(i), concise statements of relevance are provided below for information items not in the English language.

Based upon the drawings and a partial translation provided herewith, French Patent Application No. 2,492,603 (Information Item AL) discloses a sleeve for protecting wiring harnesses, the sleeve having a pull cord therein for introducing the wiring harness into the sleeve.

Based upon the drawings and a summary provided by a Japanese associate, Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. 59-189507 (Information Item AN) discloses a textile tube formed from polyester monofilament that is crushed and flattened permanently. A flat base material, such as ribbon cable is inserted in the tube.

Based upon the drawings and a summary provided by a Japanese associate, Japanese Utility Model Publication No. 2-37516 (information item BL) discloses a cable duct for arranging a group of cables in a generally parallel state. The cable duct is made of a flexible material and is divided into a plurality of independent cable accommodation chambers by partition walls extending longitudinally along the duct.

Based upon the drawings and a summary provided by a Japanese associate, Japanese Utility Model Publication No. 62-51913 (Information Item AP) discloses a lead-in line arranged within a tube which serves to quide an electrical wire or cable into the tube.

Based upon the drawings and a summary provided by a Japanese associate, Japanese Utility Model Publication No. 61-141918 (Information Item AO) discloses a flexible electric wire tube that includes a plurality of flexible parallel first tubes. Adjacent first tubes are connected to each other by flexible connecting portions. The first tubes may be arranged in a planar manner or bundled together.

Based upon the drawings and a summary provided by Patent Abstracts of Japan, Japanese Publication No. 07-274336 (Information Item BM) discloses a corrugated synthetic resin conduit 1 having a separator 2 inserted therein to partition the pipe into a plurality of sections for passing a wire through the conduit.

Respectfully submitted,

SYNNESTVEDT & LECHNER LLP

Chionchio

Req. No. 40,954

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JAC/dml Enclosures

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